

## CLAIMS

1. A video input device for conversation with sign language comprising: sign language imaging means for picking up sign language; video acquisition means for acquiring a video other than sign language; video synthesis means for synthesizing a sign language video picked up by said sign language imaging means and a video other than sign language acquired by said video acquisition means; and video transmission means for transmitting the video synthesized by said video synthesis means; characterized in that a deaf-mute person can add explanation while transmitting a video other than sign language.

2. The video input device for conversation with sign language according to claim 1, characterized in that said sign language imaging means comprises waist fixing means to be fixed at the waist of said deaf-mute person.

3. The video input device for conversation with sign language according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that said video transmission means comprises videophone connection means to be connected to a videophone terminal.

4. The video input device for conversation with sign language according to claim 3, characterized in that said

videophone connection means comprises radio communications means for performing radio communications with said videophone terminal.

5. A video input/output device for conversation with sign language comprising the video input device for conversation with sign language according to claim 3 or 4,

said videophone connection means including sign language video receiving means for receiving a sign language video being received by said videophone terminal, characterized in that

said video input/output device for conversation with sign language includes display means for displaying a sign language video received by said sign language video receiving means and fixing means for fixing said display means in front of the eyes of said deaf-mute person.

6. The video input/output device for conversation with sign language according to claim 5, characterized in that said display means comprises a convex lens which can substantially focus on a sign language video displayed on said display means when said deaf-mute person views the outer world.

7. The video input/output device for conversation with sign language according to claim 5 or 6, characterized in that said fixing means has a frame structure which can be fixed to the

ears and nose of a deaf-mute person.

8. The video input/output device for conversation with sign language according to any one of claims 5 through 7, characterized in that said video acquisition means includes target imaging means for picking up a target other than sign language and

said target imaging means is fixed to said fixing means and picks up the area in the viewing direction of the deaf-mute person.

9. A sign language interpretation system interconnecting a videophone terminal for deaf-mute persons used by a deaf-mute person capable of using sign language to which is connected the video input/output device for conversation with sign language according to any one of claims 5 through 8, a videophone terminal for non-deaf-mute persons used by a non-deaf-mute person incapable of using sign language, and a videophone terminal for sign language interpreters used by a sign language interpreter in order to provide sign language interpretation in a conversation between a deaf-mute person and a non-deaf-mute person over a videophone, characterized in that

said system comprises connection means equipped with a sign language interpreter registration table where the

terminal number of said videophone terminal for sign language interpreters used by a sign language interpreter is registered, said connection means including a function to accept a call from said videophone terminal for deaf-mute persons or said videophone terminal for non-deaf-mute persons, a function to prompt a calling videophone terminal for which said call is accepted to enter the terminal number of the called terminal, a function to extract the terminal number of a sign language interpreter from said sign language interpreter registration table, a function to call the videophone terminal for sign language interpreters by using said extracted terminal number of the sign language interpreter, and a function to call the called videophone terminal by using said acquired called terminal number and

communications means including a function to synthesize at least a video from said videophone terminal for non-deaf-mute persons and a video from said videophone terminal for sign language interpreters and transmit the resulting video to said videophone terminal for deaf-mute persons, a function to transmit at least a video from said videophone terminal for deaf-mute persons and an audio from said videophone terminal for sign language interpreters to said videophone terminal for non-deaf-mute persons, and a function to transmit at least a video from said videophone terminal for deaf-mute persons and an audio from said videophone terminal for non-deaf-mute

persons to said videophone terminal for sign language interpreters.

10. The sign language interpretation system according to claim 9, characterized in that

selection information for selecting a sign language interpreter is registered in said sign language interpreter registration table and that said connection means includes a function to acquire the conditions for selecting a sign language interpreter from said calling videophone terminal and a function to extract the terminal number of a sign language interpreter who satisfies said acquired selection conditions for the sign language interpreter from said sign language interpreter registration table.